

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A protective helmet comprising a deformable internal foam liner, a plurality of rigid external shell segments arranged on the foam liner so as to form at least one crown segment, at least one occipital segment and a plurality of transverse side segments, and joining means made of flexible material performing joining between the shell segments and the joining means being directly attached to adjacent shell segments of the plurality of rigid external shell segments, a headband adjustment means fixedly secured at least to the occipital segment, wherein the adjustment means comprises a lace joining the shell segments to one another and cooperating with a knurled knob actuating tightening and loosening of the helmet, wherein joining means made of flexible material are formed by strips joining the shell segments to one another, wherein the crown segment is separated from at least one of the transverse side segments by a gap extending from a rear side to a front side of the helmet, and wherein the shell segments and the joining means made of flexible material are joined to the foam liner in such a way as to enable a slight sliding between the foam liner and at least a part of the shell segments.

2. (Previously Presented) The helmet according to claim 1, comprising at least one front segment.

3. (Previously Presented) The helmet according to claim 1, comprising at least four transverse side segments.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The helmet according to ~~claim 4~~claim 1, wherein the adjustment means comprise a tab equipped with plurality of teeth forming a rack and designed to cooperate with a pinion fixedly secured to the occipital segment.

7. (Previously Presented) The helmet according to claim 1, comprising a textile surface covering the shell segments.

8. (Withdrawn) The helmet according to claim 1, wherein the joining means made of flexible material are formed by a cap completely covering the foam liner.

9. (Withdrawn) The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the cap comprises compartments inside which the shell segments are housed.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The helmet according to ~~claim 10~~claim 1, wherein the strips are made of elastomer.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The helmet according to claim 1, wherein the foam liner comprises a plurality of cut-outs offset with respect to the separating gaps between the shell segments.

14. (Withdrawn) The helmet according to claim 1, wherein the foam liner comprises a plurality of thinned zones offset with respect to the separating gaps between the shell segments.

15. (Withdrawn) The helmet according to claim 1, wherein the foam liner comprises a plurality of superposed sheets forming a multi-layer structure.

16. (Previously Presented) The helmet according to claim 1, wherein the foam liner is made of polymer foam of the expanded polypropylene type presenting good compression shock-absorbing and flexion elasticity characteristics.

17. (Previously Presented) The helmet according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of additional shell segments joined to the foam liner and arranged facing the separating gaps between the shell segments.